

ABSTRACT

5 A method and apparatus for scheduling upstream data packets in a communication system is described. The present inventive method obtains a priority value (PV) for an upstream data packet and compares (using hardware registers) the PV of a queued upstream data packet to a current system timer. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the current system timer comprises the current clock time of the communication system. When a PV equals the current system timer, the method transmits the upstream data packet associated with the PV to the CMTS via the upstream transmission path.